

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

We thank the Appropriations Committee for more than 60 years of bipartisan support of U.S. international food aid programs, including P.L. 480 Title II (Food for Peace), Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education within the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

The U.S. and the world are facing unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis, compounding already elevated levels of famine due to natural disasters and human conflict, is impacting the lives of millions of children, women, and men around the world and their ability to access food. The undersigned organizations respectfully request \$1 billion be included in the next COVID-19 supplemental funding package for procurement of U.S. commodities through U.S. international food aid programs to address the immediate needs of the global hunger crisis.

On December 10, 2020 UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley used the WFP's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech as a call for action to avert a "hunger pandemic." Mr. Beasley stated that, "270 million people are marching toward starvation. Failure to address their needs will cause a hunger pandemic which will dwarf the impact of COVID." This crisis, compounding already elevated levels of famine due to natural disasters and human conflict, is impacting the lives of millions of children, women, and men around the world and their ability to access food.

The United States has a long history of administering the largest, most diverse, reliable, safe, and effective food assistance program in the world. American agriculture is proud of the role it plays in providing in-kind commodity and nutritional support in alleviating world hunger. Even

at a time when U.S. agriculture is facing market disruptions, we are committed to feeding the world and those most in need.

Now is the time for the U.S. to show global leadership in response to “the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II.” The American farmers, fishermen and U.S. food supply chain are committed to providing these critical products to those most vulnerable across the world. Again, we want to express our deep appreciation for your leadership and support of these life-saving food assistance programs and encourage consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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| ADM | National Barley Growers Association |
| Agricor | National Corn Growers Association |
| Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute | National Council of Farmer Cooperatives |
| American Farm Bureau Federation | National Milk Producers Federation |
| American Pulse Association | National Sorghum Producers |
| American Soybean Association | North American Millers' Association |
| Breedlove Foods | North Dakota Farmers Union |
| Bunge | North Dakota Grain Growers Association |
| Cantera Partners | Repco |
| Didion Milling Inc. | Semo Milling, LLC |
| Edesia | Transylvania Vocational Services, Inc. |
| Global Food & Nutrition Inc. | U.S. Canola Association |
| Goodwill of the Heartland | U.S. Dairy Export Council |
| GrainPro Incorporated | U.S. Durum Growers Association |
| Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association | U.S. Pea and Lentil Trade Association |
| Kendall Packaging Corporation | United Sugars Corporation |
| Land O'Lakes Venture 37 | US Dry Bean Council |
| LifeLine Foods, LLC | USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council |
| MANA Nutrition | USA Rice |
| National Association of Wheat Growers | Wisconsin Corn Growers Association |

Attachment: WFP Executive Director Beasley's Remarks

Acceptance speech by Executive Director David Beasley on behalf of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2020 World Food Programme (WFP). Oslo, 10 December 2020.

Waking up this morning in this beautiful city of Rome, it is hard to imagine that in about 400 AD this city experienced a massive famine, it ended up killing almost 90% of its population. Now students of history associate something else with that ancient date: the beginning of the Fall of the Roman Empire. Now, did the famine cause the fall? Or did the fall cause the famine? I think the answer is yes – both.

Waking up in this wealthy, modern, technologically advanced world, it's hard to imagine us going through a famine like that. But my tragic duty today is to tell you: famine is at humanity's doorstep. For millions and millions of people on earth.

Failure to prevent famine in our day will destroy so many lives and cause the fall of much we hold dear.

On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, our Board, our sister agencies, our incredible partners and donors. And on behalf of 19,000 peacemakers at the World Food Programme, including those who came before us, and especially those who died in the line of duty and their families who carry on. And on behalf of the 100 million people we serve – to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, thank you, for this great honor.

Also, thank you for acknowledging our work of using food to combat hunger, to mitigate against destabilization of nations, to prevent mass migration, to end conflict and ... to create stability and peace.

We believe food is the pathway to peace.

I wish today that I could speak of how working together we could end world hunger for all the 690 million people who go to bed hungry every night. But, today we have a crisis at hand.

This Nobel Peace Prize is more than a thank you. It is a call to action. Because of so many wars, climate change, the widespread use of hunger as a political and military weapon, and a global health pandemic that makes all of that exponentially worse – 270 million people are marching toward starvation. Failure to address their needs will cause a hunger pandemic which will dwarf the impact of COVID.

And if that's not bad enough, out of that 270 million, 30 million depend on us 100% for their survival.

How will humanity respond?

Let me tell you why what we do at the World Food Programme works.

First, food is sacred. Anyone who has sat down to a Thanksgiving or a holiday meal, or taken communion, attended a Seder, fasted for Ramadan or made a food offering at a Buddhist temple knows that.

And every human, whether they are people of faith or not, knows the power of food not only to sustain us, but bring us together in our common humanity.

Here's the second reason the World Food Programme works: because what the 19,000 of us are doing is an act of love. Dr. King, Nobel Laureate in 1964 said, "Love is the most durable power in the world."

And, like Dr. King, from a very young age, I learned this teaching from Jesus of Nazareth, as he taught from the Torah: "Love your neighbor as yourself." I have come to understand that a better translation of what Jesus actually said is: "Love your neighbor as your equal." Think for a moment what that really means.

Imagine every woman, man, girl and boy we share this planet with is our equal ... and if we would just love them as such. Imagine what that would do to war, to conflict, to racism, to division, and to discrimination of every kind.

What warms my heart is this: 100 million of my equals – my neighbors – received food from the World Food Programme this past year and we averted famine.

But what tears me up inside is this: this coming year, millions and millions and millions of my equals – my neighbors, your neighbors – are marching to the brink of starvation.

We stand at what may be the most ironic moment in modern history. On the one hand – after a century of massive strides in eliminating extreme poverty, today those 270 million of our neighbors are on the brink of starvation. That's more than the entire population of Western Europe.

On the other hand, there is \$400 trillion dollars of wealth in our world today. Even at the height of the COVID pandemic, in just 90 days, an additional \$2.7 trillion dollars of wealth was created. And we only need \$5 billion dollars to save 30 million lives from famine.

What am I missing here?

A lot of my friends – and leaders around the world – have said to me: "You've got the greatest job in the world, saving the lives of millions of people."

Well, here is what I tell them: "I don't go to bed at night thinking about the children we saved, I go to bed weeping over the children we could not save. And, when we don't have enough money, nor the access we need, we have to decide which children eat and which children do not eat, which children live, which children die. How would you like that job?"

Please ... don't ask us to choose who lives and who dies.

In the spirit of Alfred Nobel, as inscribed on this medal – "peace and brotherhood" – let's feed them all.

Food is the pathway to peace. The World Food Programme.